

Borough of Ringwood.

ALL COMMUNICATIONS TO BE ADDRESSED TO
TOWN CLERK.

Town Hall.

Ringwood, 15th Dec. 1938.

PHONE RINGWOOD 204.

**The Hon. Sir J. Harris,
Minister for Education,
Parliament House,
MELBOURNE. C.1.**

copy
Dear Sir,

I am directed by my Council to request you to favourably consider the establishment of "Central Classes" at the Ringwood State School in order that some form of Secondary Education may be available for Children of parents who, for various reasons are unable to give their boys and girls the advantage of obtaining higher education in other Centres.

Recently a meeting of teachers and school committee representatives was held at Ringwood and it was decided to send a deputation to the Borough Council asking that representation be made to the Hon. the Minister for Education requesting that Central Classes be established at Ringwood.

Subsequently the deputation waited on the Council, the case for advanced education excellently put by the representatives appointed at the meeting of teachers, and the Council unanimously agreed to present the case to the Minister.

Briefly the points stressed were these.

The establishment of "Central Classes" is asked for on account of the,

- (a) minimum of cost involved,
- (b) there is room available at the Ringwood School,
- (c) continuity of education in primary plus secondary subjects,
- (d) may be easily extended in scope to dual purpose or higher elementary school when the need arises, and
- (e) continuity is still maintained for the child's secondary education.

There are approximately 2000 children attending near primary schools in this district and from enquiries made recently it is estimated there would be between 70 and 80 Scholars who would take advantage of secondary education here at the commencement of the coming year. These are in addition to those who have already arranged to attend other Secondary Schools nearer the Metropolis.

Ringwood is a railway junction and the train and bus service is admirably timed to suit a number of probable students, but the township is so centrally situated that quite a number of pupils would be able to travel by cycle except in very bad weather. An important feature that must not be overlooked is the fact that the entrance to Secondary Schools is invariably obtained by examination because of the limitations of space and all pupils who fail cannot participate; but, should Central Classes be made available at Ringwood, this factor will not stand in the way of children particularly in the case of those of a nervous temperament who invariably do not do their best at examinations.

As the necessity of providing the opportunity for the rising generation to obtain the best education possible will be apparent and the expense involved so negligible, I trust this request will merit your favourable consideration.

Wishing you the compliments of the Season.

Yours faithfully,

THE CASE FOR HIGHER EDUCATION IN RINGWOOD.

Prelude.

For many years past it has been felt by a large section of the Community that better facilities for advanced education at a minimum cost be available for the pupils attending the Schools in and around Ringwood. Previously it had been made a plank of the platform of candidates for the Borough and it is to be regretted that for some unforeseen circumstances the matter was never considered.

However His Worship, the Mayor, Cr. J. K. McCaskill, has seen fit to again raise the question, and he called, on 21st ult., a meeting of Head Teachers and representatives of School Committees to discuss the matter.

This is highly commendable.

After a long discussion it was decided unanimously "that the time was opportune for the establishment of some form of secondary education in Ringwood", and a Committee consisting of Messrs. D. V. Dungey, H. T. Ringwood, J. F. Maher, H. T. Ringwood East, and E. C. Garing, H. T. Ringwood North, be appointed to present a case covering the above motion, and wait on the Council as a deputation and to advise.

Much consideration has been given by this Committee to this vital matter and after having met and fully discussed all points governing the position the following facts are presented for your guidance and earnest consideration. Mr Mayor and Gentlemen we now submit these particulars bearing chiefly on the object of our visit.

1. TYPE OF SCHOOL.

Bearing in mind many points brought forward by teachers and others at the meeting we feel that "Central Classes" was thought to be the best type of school to be incorporated in the Ringwood centre therefore we recommend that Central Classes be the aim of any effort by this Council or of any other section of the Community. In support of this the points are shown in sequence and in brief.

1. Central Classes. (a) minimum of cost (b) room available (c) continuity of education in primary plus secondary subjects.
(d) Can be easily extended in scope to the following, - dual purpose, higher elementary, high etc.
(e) Continuity is still maintained for the child's future secondary education.

2. WHAT ARE CENTRAL CLASSES?

- (a) These are for pupils from Grades VI. to VIII primary plus secondary subjects as languages, higher maths, Science, applied art.
 - (b) It is a cheaper form of part Secondary education. Why? Because 7th and 8th grades become F and E forms covering a higher standard.
- SCHOOLS AFFECTED.**

As Ringwood is a railway junction with a good train service and outlying bus services we feel that Ringwood is in an ideal position to supply a community want at a minimum cost and at the same time is a link with secondary education at Lilydale, Box Hill and Upwey.

We consider from the unanimous decision of the recent meeting attended by head teachers that most, if not all, will take advantage of the facilities provided by the Ringwood Centre.

It is estimated that approximately 2000 (two thousand) children are attending the near primary schools of this district and a conservative estimate is given of 5% of pupils of these pupils of these schools would take advantage if opportunities were available. It is therefore considered that about 100 children would be enrolled in Ringwood Central Classes.

PRESENT CONDITIONS REGARDING ENTRANCE OF PUPILS TO HIGH, TECHNICAL, HIGHER ELEM. SCHOOLS WHICH WOULD NOT APPLY TO CENTRAL CLASSES.

A very important feature in connexion with the entrance of pupils from primary schools to any of the above is that pupils invariably have to pass an entrance examination because limitations of available space, thus those failing cannot participate in opportunities of secondary education. This, Gentlemen, is a vital factor affecting some pupils.

CONVEYANCE OF PUPILS.

Ringwood is a railway junction with branch lines to Croydon and Fern Tree Gully. This affects the following schools:-Ringwood East 8.30 train, Croydon 8.26. Boronia 8.25. Bayswater 8.30, Bayswater North 8.30. Mitcham 8.50. Vermont 8.50. Forest Hill, 8.45. Wantirna - cycle.

Bus services from Warrandyte, Warrandyte South and Ringwood North and a proposed Bus Service from Croydon North to Ringwood is almost assured.

Although these services are shewn for your information still it is considered by this deputation that, as all of these schools are within a radius of approximately 5 miles it would not be too great a burden for pupils to cycle to Ringwood and in bad weather other services are available.

This again suggests a limited cost to parents for higher education.

COST TO BOROUGH COUNCIL AND FOR THE COMMUNITY

An important feature that will naturally affect the Council and for the community has been seriously considered. In view of the particular type of school recommended there should be no drain on the resources of this Borough or of the Community, although it is felt that the Borough and Community in general should always feel a responsibility in regard to such a vital matter of education in its boundaries and as a national question.

This deputation is very proud of the fact that it has had an opportunity of meeting this Council to present a case for higher education in Ringwood and we feel that the Borough and its representatives should feel privileged to be able to advance any cause for a better system of education in their locality.

The Borough of Ringwood must feel its want, and the fact that facilities for higher education have not been available to its own children should stir all to action, and therefore with the incorporation of Central Classes the Status of the Borough must be enhanced; and thus it is discreetly suggested that with such a system available a possible increase in the population will result.

Ringwood will be better able to play its part as an educational centre and the training of the boys and girls under such local conditions must have some influence on making better Ringwood and District citizens of the future; therefore Mr Mayor and Gentlemen we commend this project to you and we earnestly recommend that the matter be considered such a vital one to the Community that it deserves your best endeavours to see that this be instituted in Ringwood at the earliest possible moment.

We desire to express our appreciation to you for your attention and we do trust that Ringwood will boast a system of better education as a result of your endeavours.

Signed . D.V.Dungey,
J.F.Maher.
E.C. Garing.

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Ringwood East...
Municipal Board...
opportunity for the...
cost of...
Teachers*

*VTA...
Education...
Execution will help...
Borough...
from...
proceeds*

THE CASE FOR SOME FORM OF SECONDARY EDUCATION
IN RINGWOOD.

1. Situation. (a) Borough Council Centre.
(b) Railway Junction. (a) Fern Tree Gully.
(b) Croydon.
(c) Bus Service to Warrantyte.
2. Schools affected. 15 Primary Schools within a 5 miles radius and with an attendance of approximately 300 pupils in Grades VII and VIII.
3. Secondary Schools in outside Districts. These provide for an entrance examination for VI and VII Grade pupils and a percentage even now fail to gain admission. Parents also consider that these schools are not convenient enough. Children attending Primary Schools within 5 miles of Ringwood could either walk or cycle to Ringwood.
4. Special forms of Education suggested. Education as for Central Classes with addition of the Practical side viz.-- sloyd, sheet metal work and Domestic Arts for Girls.

It is not considered advisable for a ^{large} ~~large~~ majority of these children (VII and VIII Grades) to go to Secondary School for E and F forms' instruction as many intend leaving at 14-15 years.
5. Expense Although it is known that free facilities are available still the cost of uniforms, books, fares etc, still make it a burden to the vast majority of parents most of whom are on basic wage.
6. Convenience of Ringwood. The convenience of Ringwood as a natural centre would obviate cost and enable the majority to take advantage of an education of wider scope which would benefit pupils on a greater basis when leaving at 14 to 15 years.

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